

Letter of William Lloyd Garrison to Theo. Bourne

BOSTON, Nov. 18, 1858.

MY DEAR FRIEND:—It gave me the greatest gratification to receive and read your letter of the 8th inst. It seemed next to receiving an epistle from your venerated father, whose memory will ever be dear to me, and whose labors, sacrifices and perils in the cause of the millions in our land, who are "appointed to destruction," ought to be biographically chronicled and perpetuated. I confess my early and large indebtedness to him for enabling me to apprehend, with irresistible clearness, the inherent sinfulness of slavery under all circumstances, and its utter incompatibility with the spirit and precepts of Christianity I felt, and was inspired by the magnetism of his lion-hearted soul, which knew nothing of fear and trampled upon all compromises with oppression, yet was full of womanly gentleness and susceptibility, and mightily did he aid the anti-slavery cause in its earliest stages by his advocacy of the doctrine of immediate and unconditional emancipation, his exposition of the hypocrisy of the colonization scheme, and his reprobation of a negrophating, slaveholding religion. He was both "a son of thunder," and "a son of consolation." Never has slavery had a more indomitable foe, or freedom a truer friend.

You inquire whether your father was not the author of the work entitled "Slavery Illustrated in its Effects upon Woman," published in this city in 1837, by Isaac Knapp. He was, as every line of it bears witness. I wish it could be republished and a million copies of it distributed broadcast; but, as yet, there is no market for such a book and an edition must be provided for, if at all, in some other manner than by a reliance upon its sale.

You inquire, further, whether a portrait of your father hangs in any Anti Slavery Office or public place in New England? Not to my knowledge. I do not now recollect to have seen or heard of the one taken by the colored artist to whom you refer, Patrick Reason. I own one, but thought there was another in New England.

I thank you for sending me a copy of the Constitution of the "African Civilization Society," and the pamphlet by Benjamin Coates, which I have briefly noticed in the "Liberator" of this week. I am not prepared to state my views of this new movement at length, but I heartily wish prosperity to every benevolent effort to increase the growth of free cotton, whether in Africa, India, or elsewhere, and thus to strike a heavy blow at slavery pecuniarily.

I am in hopes, however, that we are nearer the jubilee than such a movement would seem to imply. Still, let every just instrumentality be used for the eternal overthrow of slavery.

I will send a copy of the "Liberator" to your society with great pleasure. Shall it be sent to your address?

Is your mother yet living? If so give her my warmest remembrances, but as for the children who survive, please give me their names, and tell me where they are, whenever you can find leisure conveniently to do so.

Yours to break every yoke,

WM. LLOYD GARRISON.

MR. THEODORE BOURNE.

ROXBURY, April 14, 1869.

THEODORE BOURNE, Esq.—Dear Sir:—Although for the two last years I have been intending to write a history of the anti-slavery conflict in the United States, in accordance with an engagement made with Messrs. Ticknor & Fields, publishers, I have not as yet, owing to many hindrances, chiefly the state of my health, and absence from the country, written one sentence of it, nor made any progress in the examination of documents, etc. Nor does it now seem at all probable that I shall ever consummate a task of such difficulty, delicacy, and magnitude. But in case I shall attempt to do so, you may be assured that the early and indomitable labors of your revered father will be duly remembered and honored by me, to the fullest extent. While I must decline writing his memorial, as you wish me to do, because of my other engagements, I beg leave to suggest that it would be a filial and meritorious act for some one of his children, who know the incidents of his remarkable career so thoroughly, to prepare such a memorial, with copious extracts from the writings of your father in opposition to the nefarious act of making man the property of man.

You ask me whether I have a copy of the letter I wrote to you, in 1858, in testimony of my high appreciation of your father's labors and memory. I have none, and made none at the time. Of course you are at liberty to do with that letter whatever you may think best.

Very truly yours, WM. LLOYD GARRISON.

BOSTON, Aug. 1, 1870.

DEAR SIR:—I am very much obliged to you for having taken the trouble to make a copy of a letter which I wrote to you in 1858 (and also for sending the same to me), in regard to your father's early, long-continued and uncompromising testimonies against American slavery, and my high appreciation of his character and labors.

As to the letter itself you state: "Many persons have expressed a wish to have a copy of the first page of it, at least, lithographed, and with your autograph attached. Shall I accede to their request?" Certainly. Do with the letter, in part or in whole, just according to your wishes.

When I wrote, in 1858, "We are nearer the jubilee than such a movement would seem to imply," I did not assume to write in a specially prophetic spirit, nor anticipate the Divine *modus operandi* (through Southern rebellion, disunion and civil war) of bringing slavery to an end. But I felt confident that the crisis was not far off, and that, either peaceably or forcibly, the jubilee would, ere long, be ushered in. Whether or not your venerated father shall have accorded to him the historic credit which is his due as a most courageous and indomitable anti-slavery pioneer, is comparatively of small moment, seeing that the "Lord knoweth them that are his," and that the record in well doing is in doing well. Let me thank you for appending the names of the children living, and believe me,

Very truly yours, WM. LLOYD GARRISON.

MR. THEODORE BOURNE.



Letter of John G. Whittier

AMESBURY, Mass., 1st Mo., 7, 1885.

DEAR FRIEND THEODORE BOURNE:—Thy letter vividly recalls thy brave and honored father, whose stirring words seem even now ringing in my ears. He was really one of the earliest and most earnest advocates of immediate emancipation. He knew what slavery was and hated it as the enemy of God and humanity. My letters of that early period are destroyed, but I think it probable that Elizur Wright, of Medford, Mass., or Oliver Johnson, of New York, may have letters of thy father's in their possession.

I am truly thy friend, JOHN G. WHITTIER.

Relating to
Reel George Bourne
Author of
"The Book and Slavery Bond"
"Irreconcilable"
Harrisonburg, Virginia
Philadelphia 1816
Bourne's
Picture of Slavery in the U.S.
Middlebury, Conn. 1833
Slavery Illustrated in its
Effects upon Women
Boston, Isaac Knapp 1837
Editor of "The Postscript"
New York 1830-33
Illustrated by
"The Book of Slavery"
Boston, The Canadian Press
etc etc

Theodore Bourne Care of J. B. Bourne (Room 101) 280 Broadway New York City. 97. 91.

William Lloyd Garrison
Letter, relating to
Rev. George Burdett

Is it not an extraordinary spectacle, unparalleled in all history that the Party of Freedom and Progress, of Lincoln's day, should have become so demoralized and degenerate under McKinley as to violate all its antecedents and principles, as to wage a War of Congress and Massacre against a people struggling for Civil and Religious Liberty? Lately our friends and allies against the atrocious tyranny of Spain?

And that the Party which aimed to destroy the Union in order to perpetuate Slavery should now advocate the Cause of the oppressed and unite with the Anti-Supremacists in upholding our Constitution? maintaining American principles and precedents against their traitorous foes now masquerading under the guise of Republicans and upholders of the Flag?

I have never voted a Democratic ticket and never will, but if they ignore it I would rather see them victorious over the traitors, and restore the authority of the Constitution now deeply desecrated and his iniquitous associates. A third, an American Party is needed in which all patriots can unite against the doer of McKinley and the Vatican, now dominant at Washington. I am, Yours very truly

Theodore Bourne

